

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W

-----150241Z 041123 /75-62

R 140230Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT PGOV PP

SUBJ: RESIGNATION OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL COMPLICATES PNG ELECTION
SCENE

REF: PORT MORESBY 0165

1. EMBASSY REPORTED REFTEL RESIGNATION DR JOHN GUISE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PAPUA NEW GUINEA. SINCE GUISE ONE OF FEW PEOPLE IN PNG GENERALLY VIEWED AS BEING CAPABLE OF HOLDING PM POSITION, HIS REENTRY INTO POLITICS COMPLICATES CONSIDERABLY OUR ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE GOVERNMENT COALITION (SEE SEPTTEL).

2. GUISE ALLEGES REASON FOR RESIGNATION WAS ON-GOING DISPUTE WITH SIR MAORI-KIKI, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE AND TRADE. IN FACT, SINCE INDEPENDENCE, GUISE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY UNHAPPY WITH RESTRICTIONS ON HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND AMBITIONS PROVIDED IN CONSTITUTION REGARDING PROPER ROLE OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND FACT THAT HE IS BOUND BY ADVICE OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (CABINET).

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3. GUISE HAS SOUNDED OUT NUMEROUS PEOPLE REGARDING THEIR VIEWS OF HIS RE-ENTERING POLITICAL PROCESS PRIOR TO THE SURFACING IN THE PRESS OF ANY DISPUTE WITH KIKI. HE CLEARLY HOPES TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER IN AN ANTI-SOMARE COALITION.

4. IMMEDIATE PROBLEM HIS RESIGNATION POSES FOR GOVERNMENT IS WHETHER OR NOT CURRENT PARLIAMENT SHOULD ELECT A NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

5. AT THE TIME DR GUISE WAS ELECTED BY PARLIAMENT TO POST OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL, THE SENSE OF THE PARLIAMENT WAS THAT A PAPUAN SHOULD HOLD THE POST SINCE PRIME MINISTER SOMARE IS FROM NEW GUINEA.

6. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE SOMARE GOVERNMENT DESIRES TO FILL DR. GUISE'S POSITION IMMEDIATELY. SIR MAORI KIKI DESIRES TO REMAIN IN THE POLITICAL ARENA, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, AND DOES NOT DESIRE TO BE NAMED GOVERNOR-GENERAL. OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES, ALTHOUGH NOT PAPUANS, WOULD BE SIR TEI ABAL, LEADER OF THE UNITED PARTY OPPOSITION, AND SIR PAUL LAPUN, MEMBER FROM BOUGAINVILLE. WE UNDERSTAND TEI ABAL DOES NOT DESIRE THE POSITION AND, ALTHOUGH SIR PAUL LAPUN UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD LIKE TO BE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COALITION PLANS TO NAME TORE LOKOLOKO AS THE ONLY AVAILABLE PAPUAN OF STATURE. LOKOLOKO HAS ALREADY INDICATED HE DOES NOT DESIRE TO RUN FOR PARLIAMENT IN THE NEXT ELECTION AND THEREFORE WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

7. THE OPPOSITION ANNOUNCED SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT IT BELIEVES THE POSITION OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL SHOULD NOT BE HELD BY THE CURRENT PARLIAMENT AND THAT THIS IMPORTANT POST SHOULD BE ELECTED BY THE INCOMING PARLIAMENT. PRESUMABLY, THE OPPOSITION WOULD ATTEMPT WITHHOLD ITS VOTES DESPITE THE FACT THAT KOKOLOKO IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED PARTY IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEF THAT THERE MAY BE A PAPUAN PRIME MINISTER (OALA OALA-RARUA OR GUIES) IN ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED PARTY FOLLOWING THE NEXT ELECTION. IN SUCH A SITUATION IT WOULD BE AWKWARD TO HAVE BOTH PRIME MINISTER AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL PAPUANS AND THE OPPOSITION WOULD LIKE TO KEEP ITS OPTIONS OPEN. LASTLY, THERE IS SOME FEELING THAT IF SIR TEI ABAL, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, IS NOT RETURNED TO THE PARLIAMENT, HE HIMSELF MAY LATER DESIRE THE POSITION OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL. WE UNDERSTAND THE GOVERNMENT HOPES PUSH THROUGH THE ELECTION OF A NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL FEB 14. VOTE WOULD BE CLOSE, DEPENDING ON HOW MANY UNITED PARTY MEMBERS SUPPORT LOKOLOKO AGAINST WISHES OF THEIR LEADER TEI ABAL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Subject: RESIGNATION OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL COMPLICATES PNG ELECTION SCENE
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PP, (GUISE, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b759cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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